



MOORE INFORMATION
Public Opinion Research

Washington Transportation Issues
November 2000

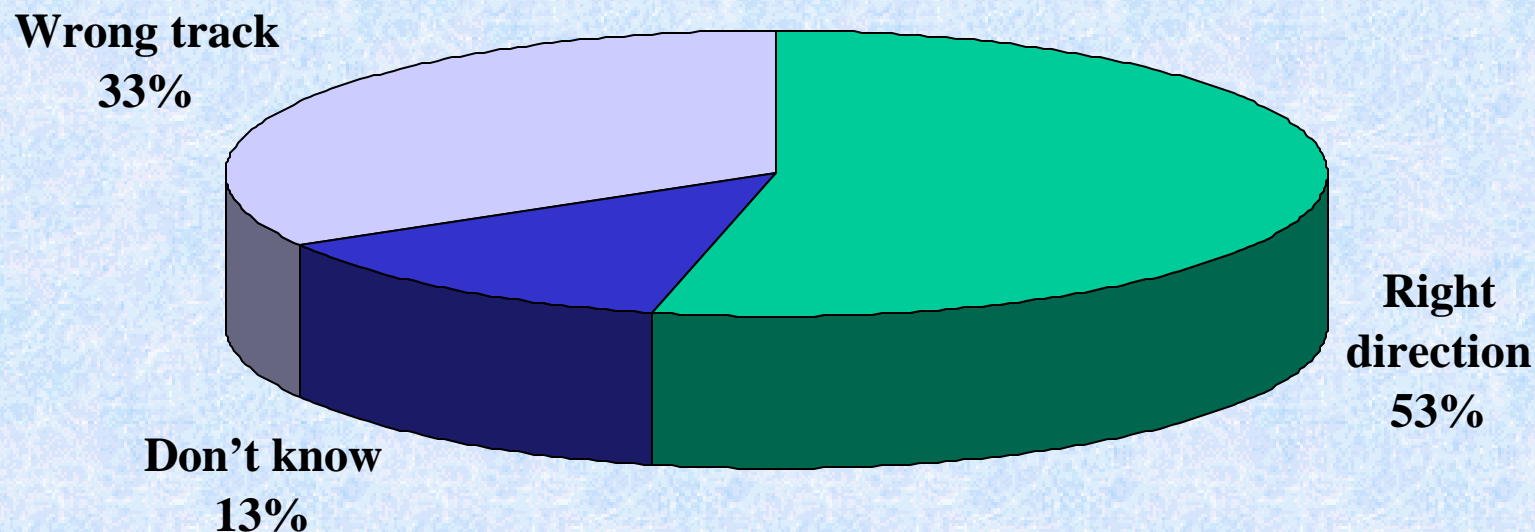
*A Report for: The Blue Ribbon
Commission on Transportation*

Survey Methodology

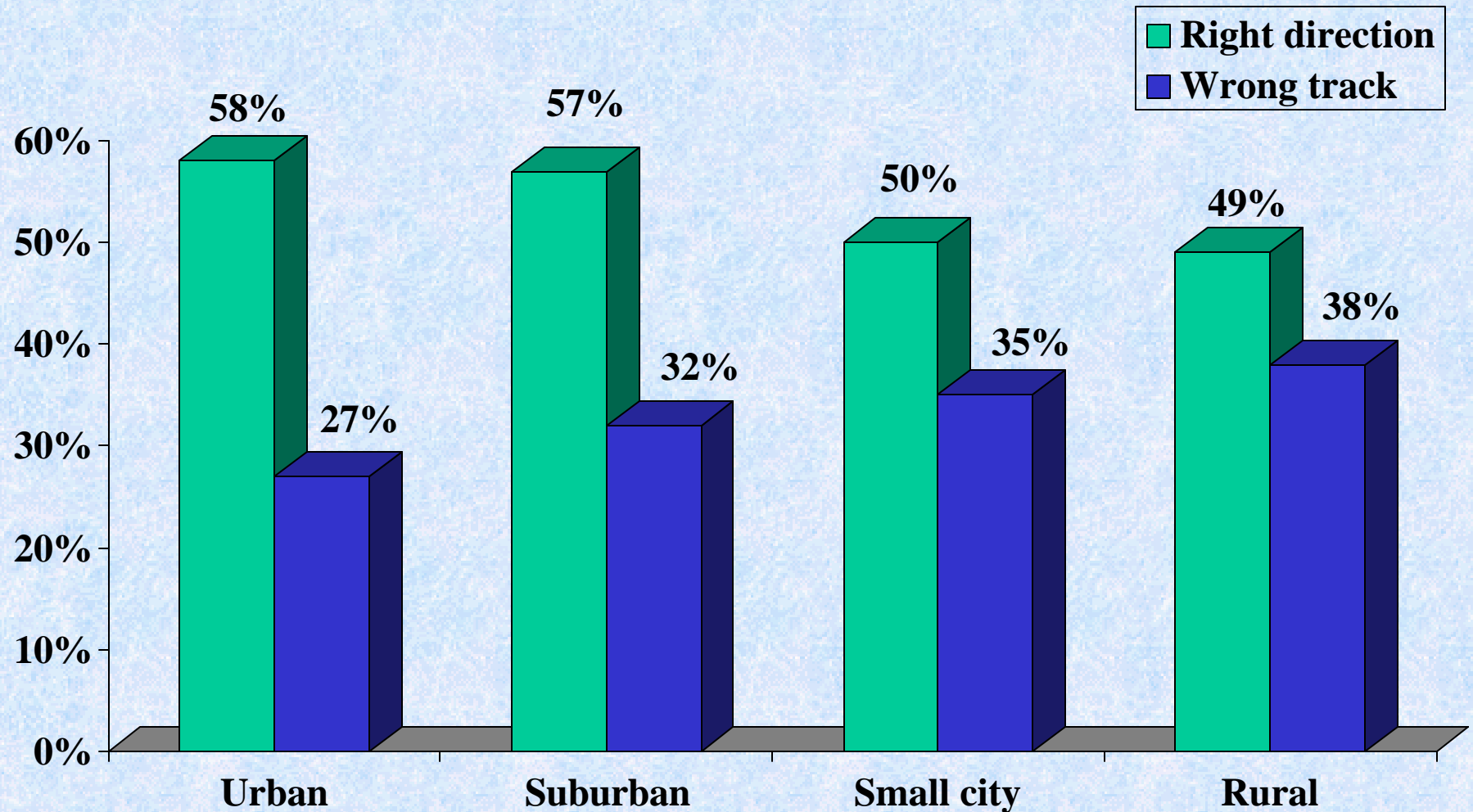
- Sample
 - 500 interviews among a representative sample of Washington state voters
- Method
 - Telephone interviews conducted November 13-15, 2000
- Sampling error
 - Plus or minus 4% at the 95% confidence level

Mood: Voters are Optimistic; Status Quo Should Prevail

"Do you think that things in Washington state are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things have pretty much gotten off on the wrong track?" (Q1)

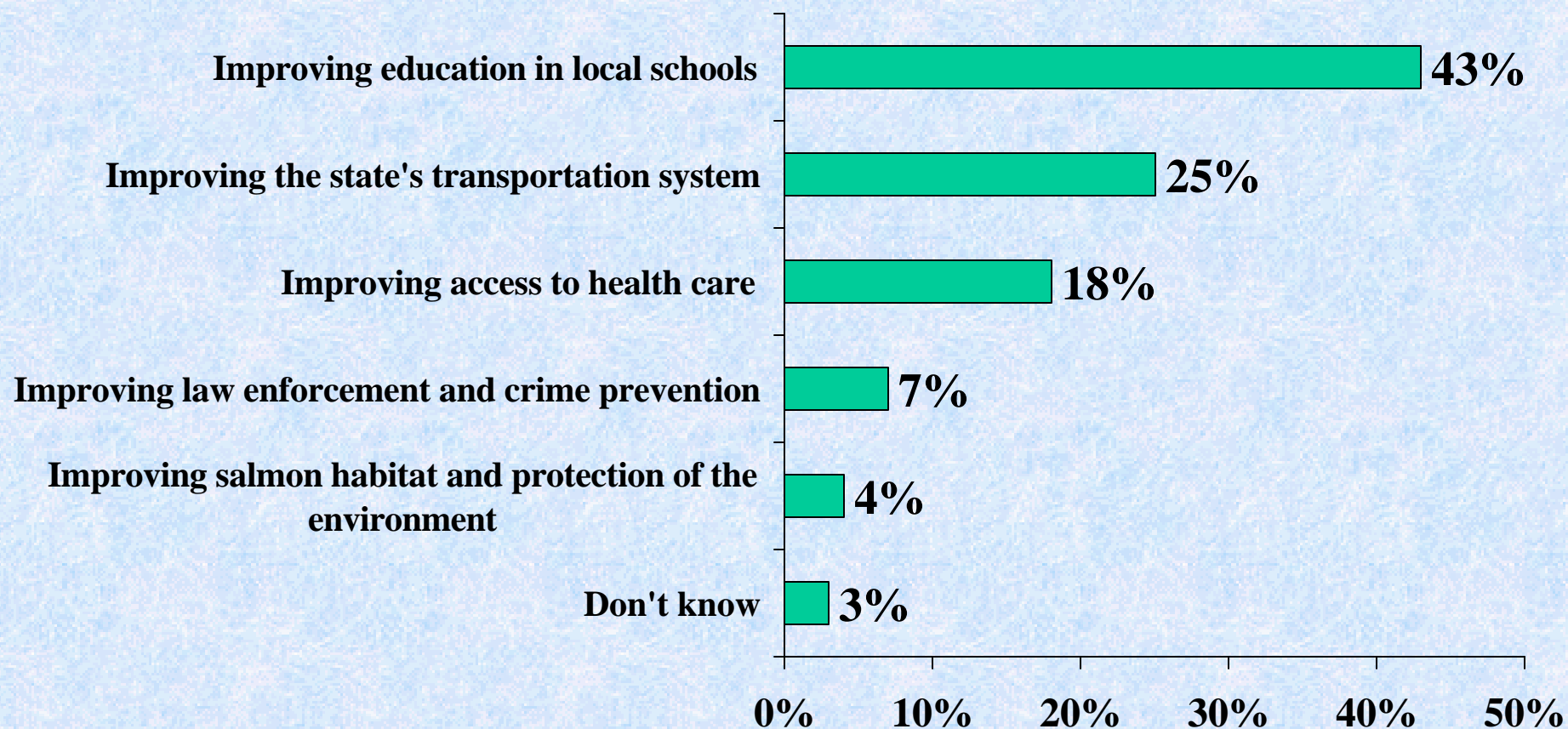


Mood: Small City, Rural Residents are Less Optimistic than Urban, Suburban Residents



Legislative Priorities: *Local Schools and the Transportation System*

"Which one of the following do you think should be the state Legislature's highest priority when it comes to funding?" (Q2)

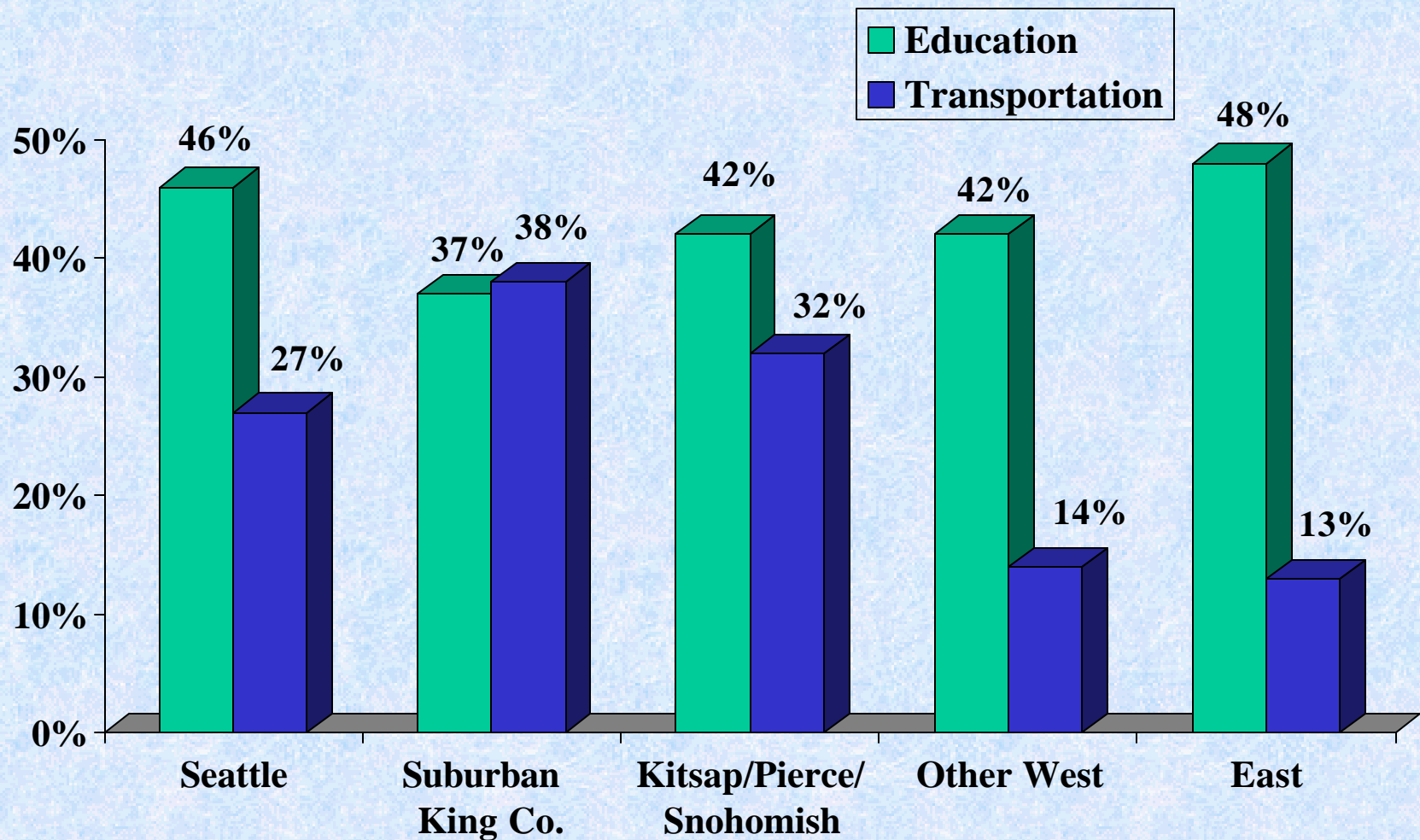


First & Second Priorities:

Education & Transportation

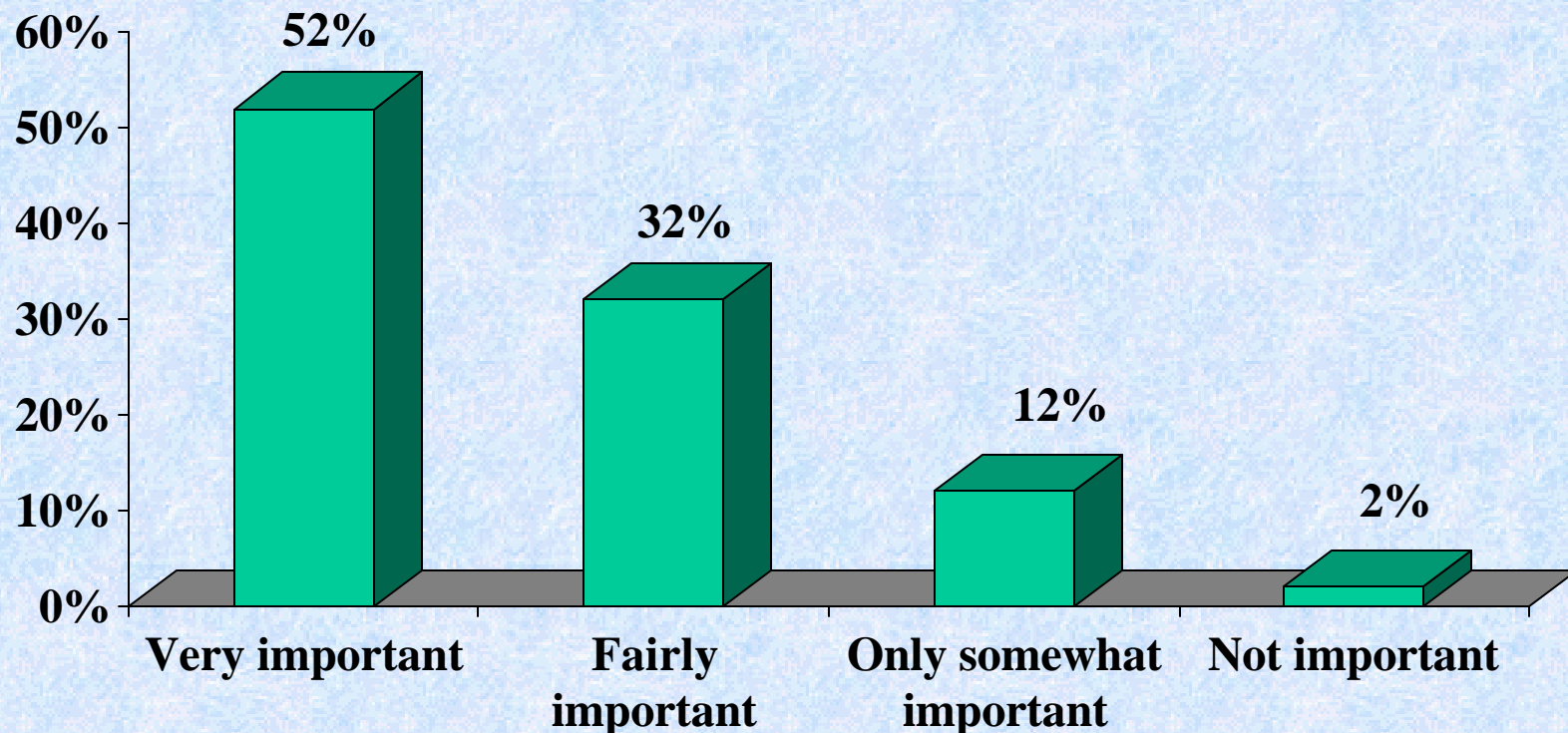
	Highest <u>priority</u>	Second <u>priority</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Education	43%	28%	70%
Transportation	25%	24%	49%
Health care	18%	22%	39%
Law enforcement	7%	15%	22%
Salmon habitat	4%	9%	13%

Legislative Priorities: *Non-Seattle King County Residents More Concerned about Transportation than Voters Elsewhere*



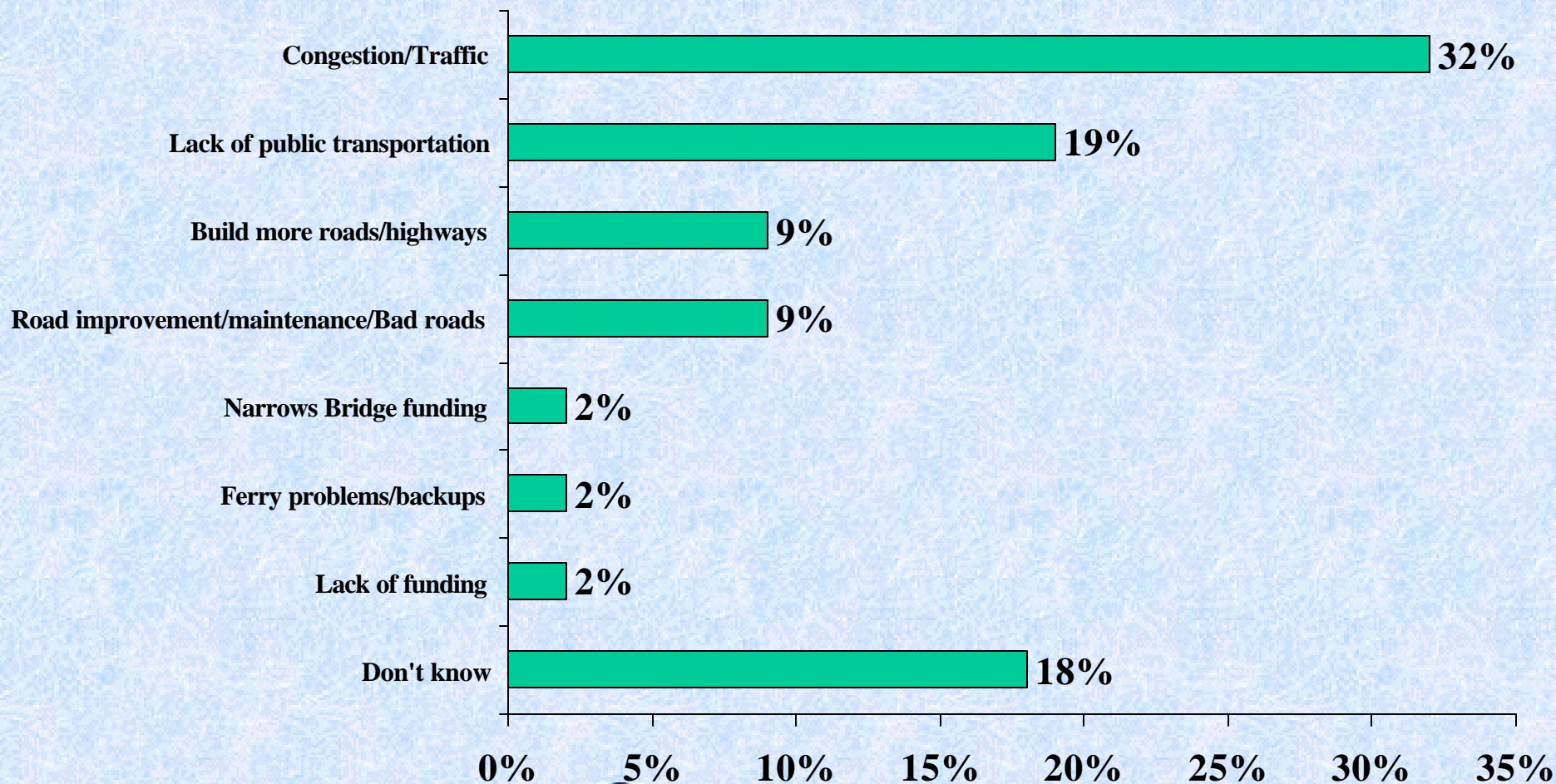
Transportation Issues are Important for Legislature to Address

"How important is it to you that the Legislature addresses the transportation problem when it begins the 2001 legislative session in January?" (Q5)



Transportation Issues: *Traffic Congestion, Lack of Public Transportation are Biggest Concerns*

"What is the major transportation related issue in your area of the state?" (Q4)



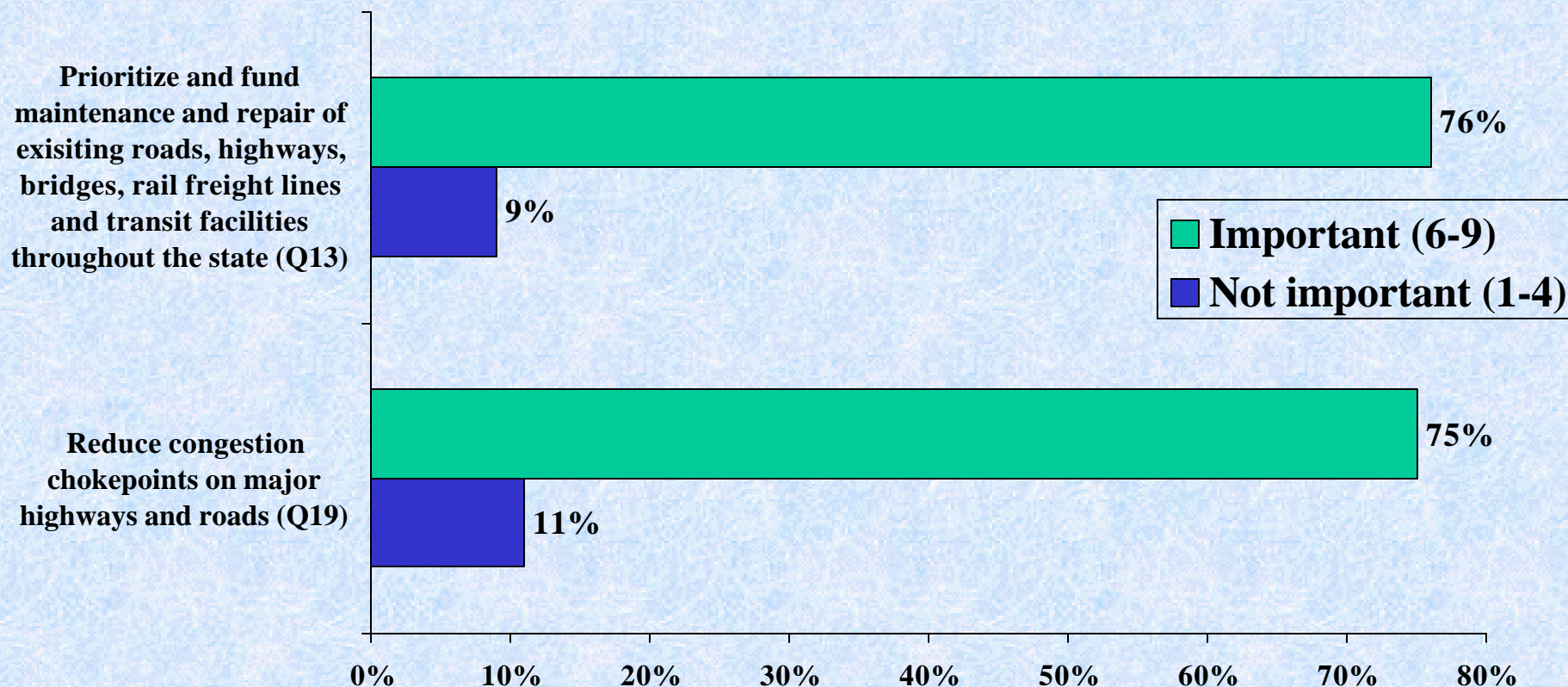
Moore Information

Transportation Issues: *Traffic Congestion, Lack of Public Transportation are Biggest Concerns (Q4)*

	<u>Seattle</u>	<u>Suburban King Co.</u>	<u>Kitsap/Pierce/ Snohomish</u>	<u>Other West</u>	<u>East</u>
Congestion/Traffic	41%	54%	37%	26%	8%
Lack of public transportation	34%	13%	12%	26%	15%
Build more roads/highways	8%	11%	21%	5%	13%
Road improvements	2%	4%	3%	9%	28%

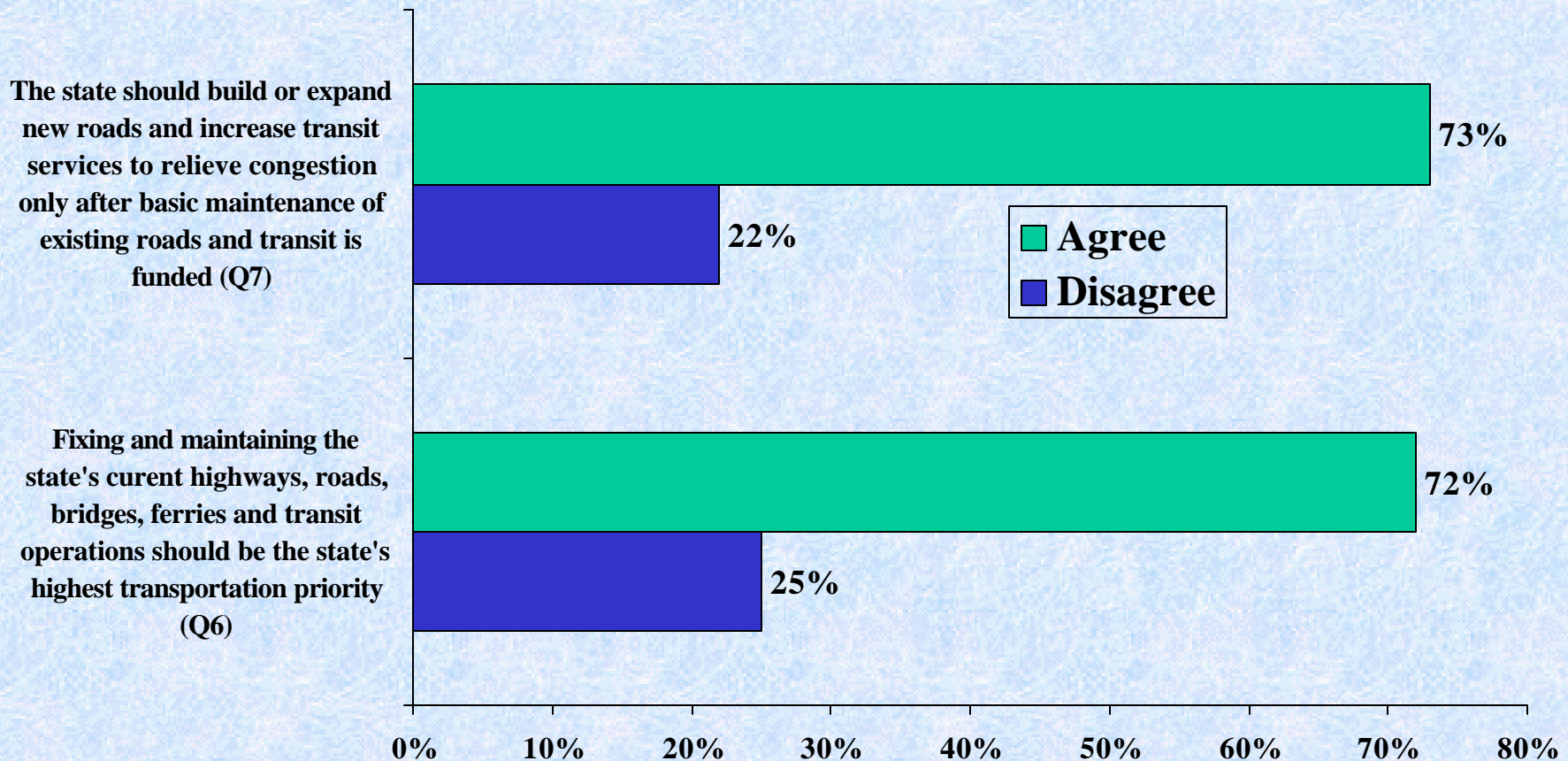
Most Important Transportation Improvements - 1

"Here is a list of items that might help improve Washington's transportation issues. What number between nine and one best describes how important each is when it comes to spending to improve the transportation system in your area of the state?"

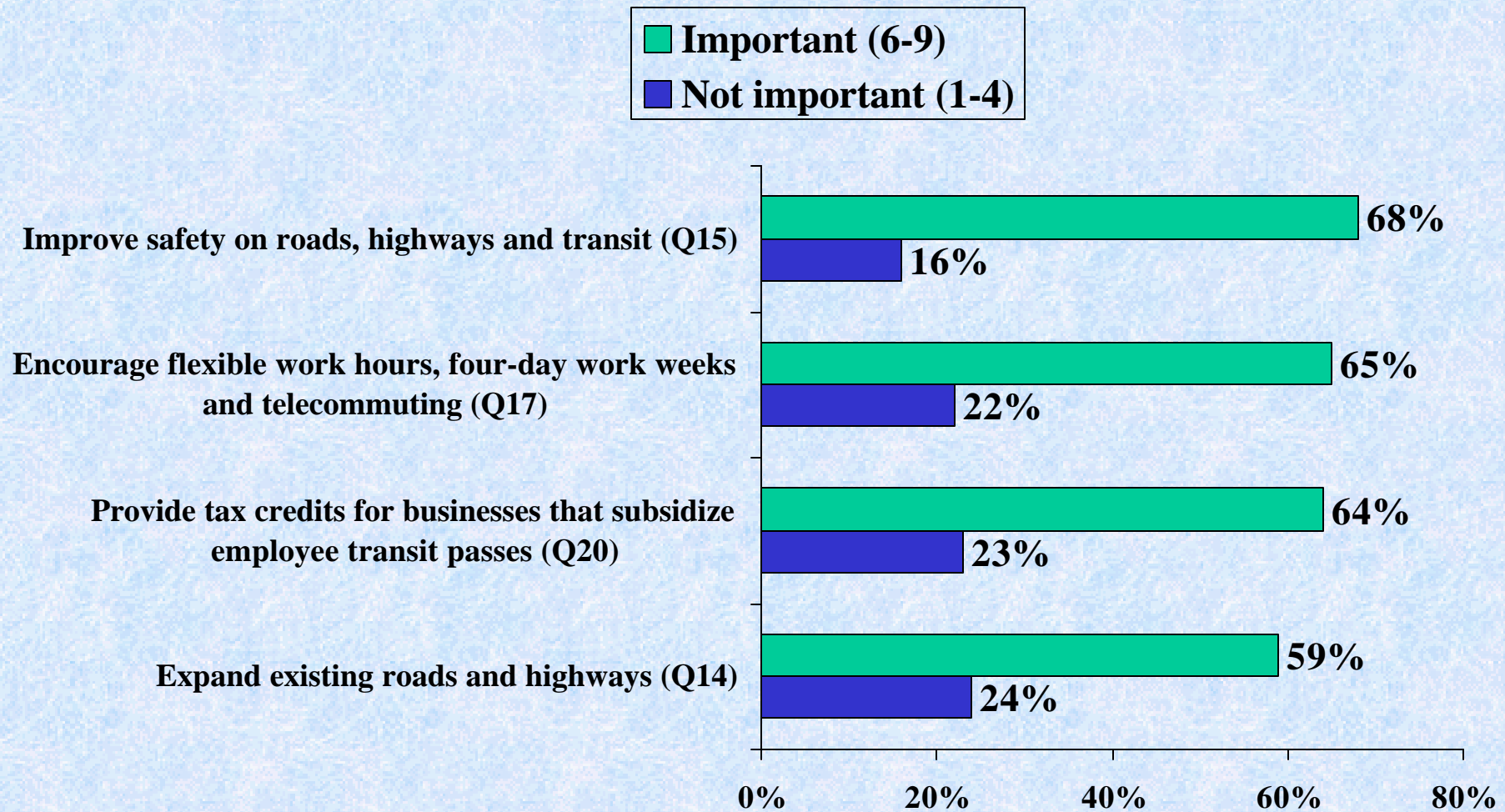


Most Important Transportation Improvements - 2

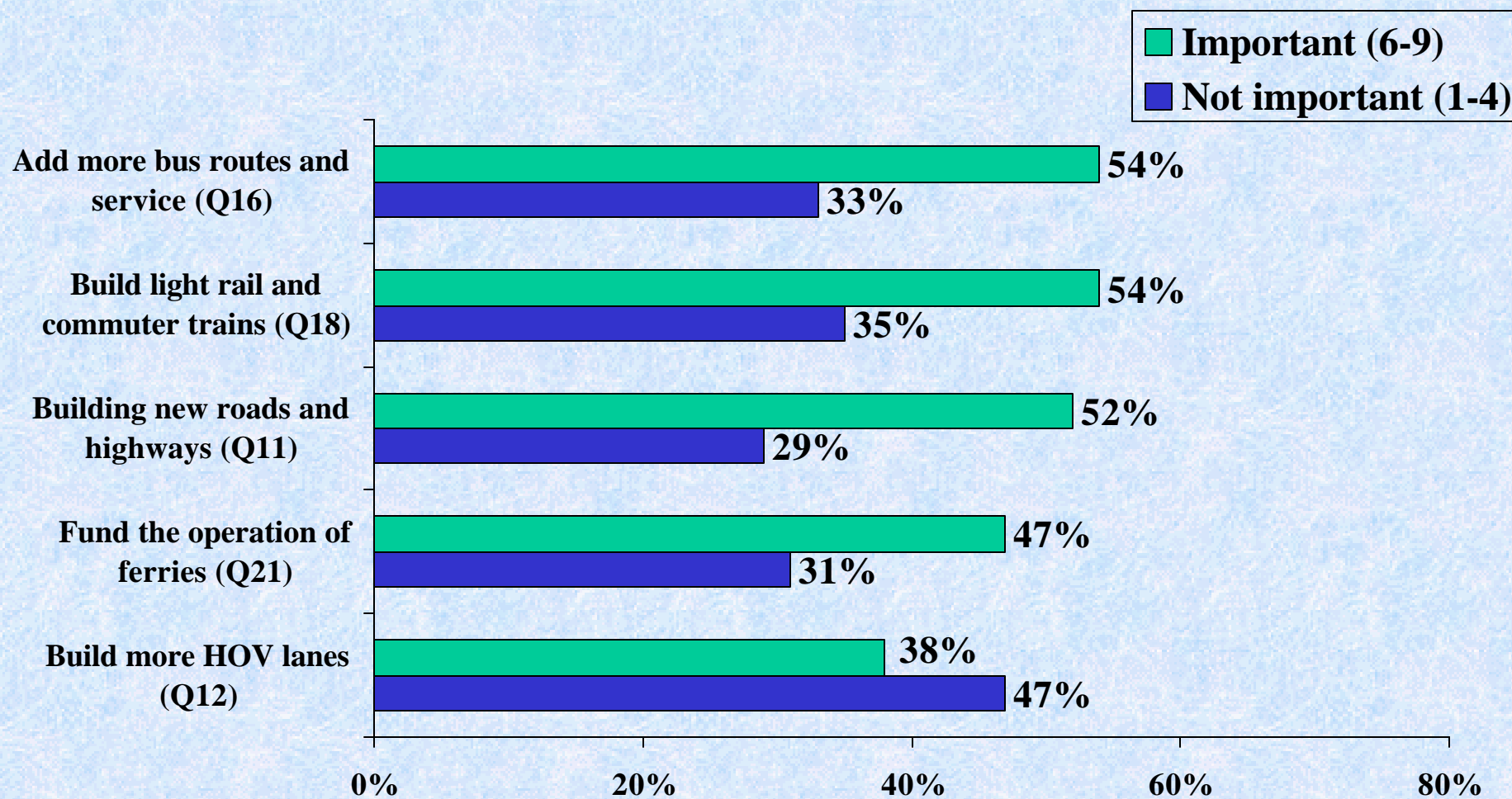
"Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following."



Other Potential Transportation Improvements - 1



Other Potential Transportation Improvements - 2



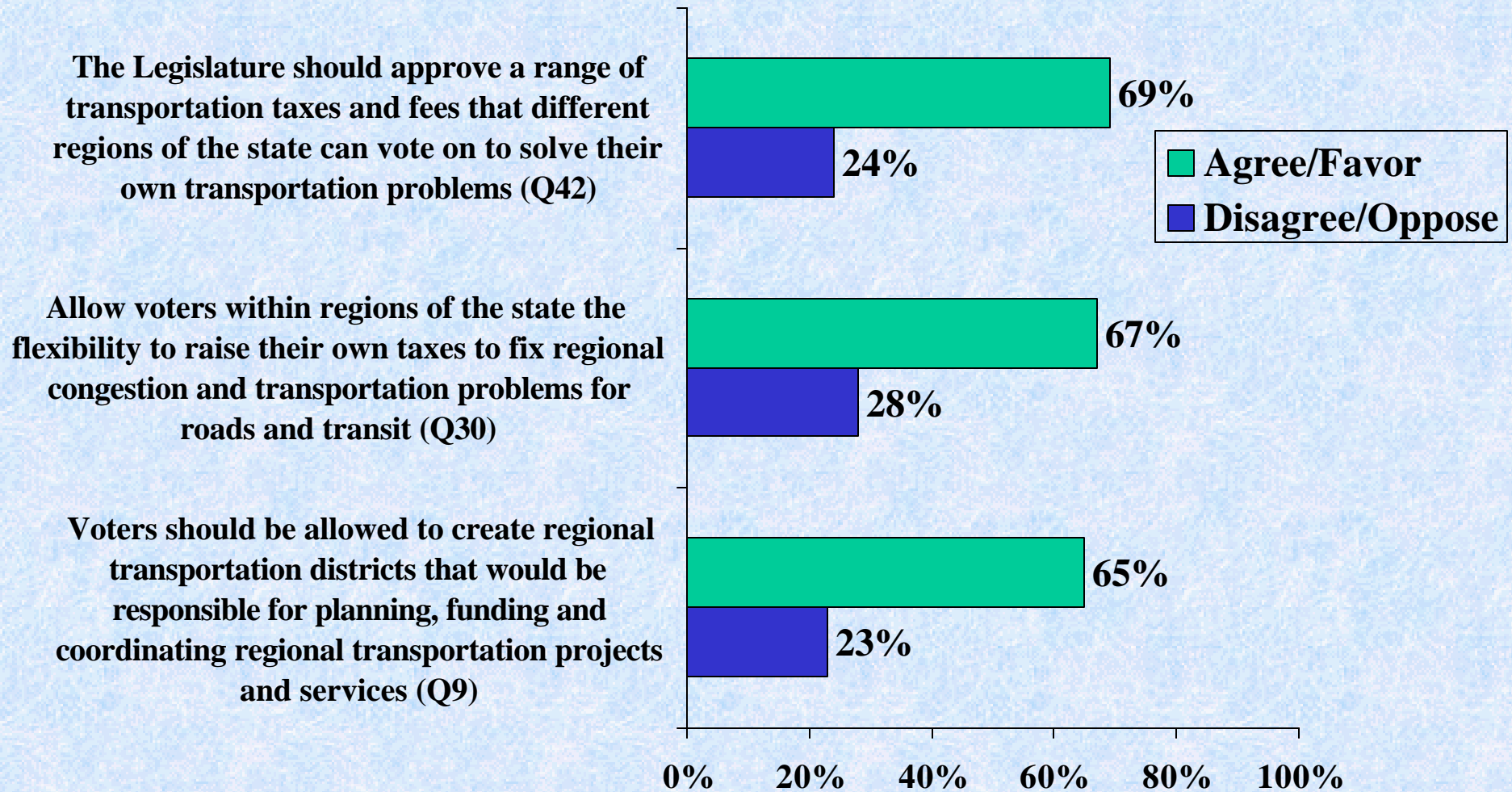
Transportation Improvements by Region - 1 (% important)

	<u>Seattle</u>	Non-Seattle <u>King</u>	Kitsap/ Pierce/ <u>Snohomish</u>	<u>Misc. West</u>	<u>East</u>
<i>Maintenance/ Repair</i>	69%	65%	78%	78%	88%
<i>Relieve congestion</i>	74%	85%	79%	68%	68%
<i>Improve safety</i>	66%	59%	75%	63%	74%
<i>Encourage flexible work hours</i>	72%	72%	69%	63%	49%
<i>Tax credits/Transit passes</i>	75%	67%	67%	59%	55%

Transportation Improvements by Region - 2 (% important)

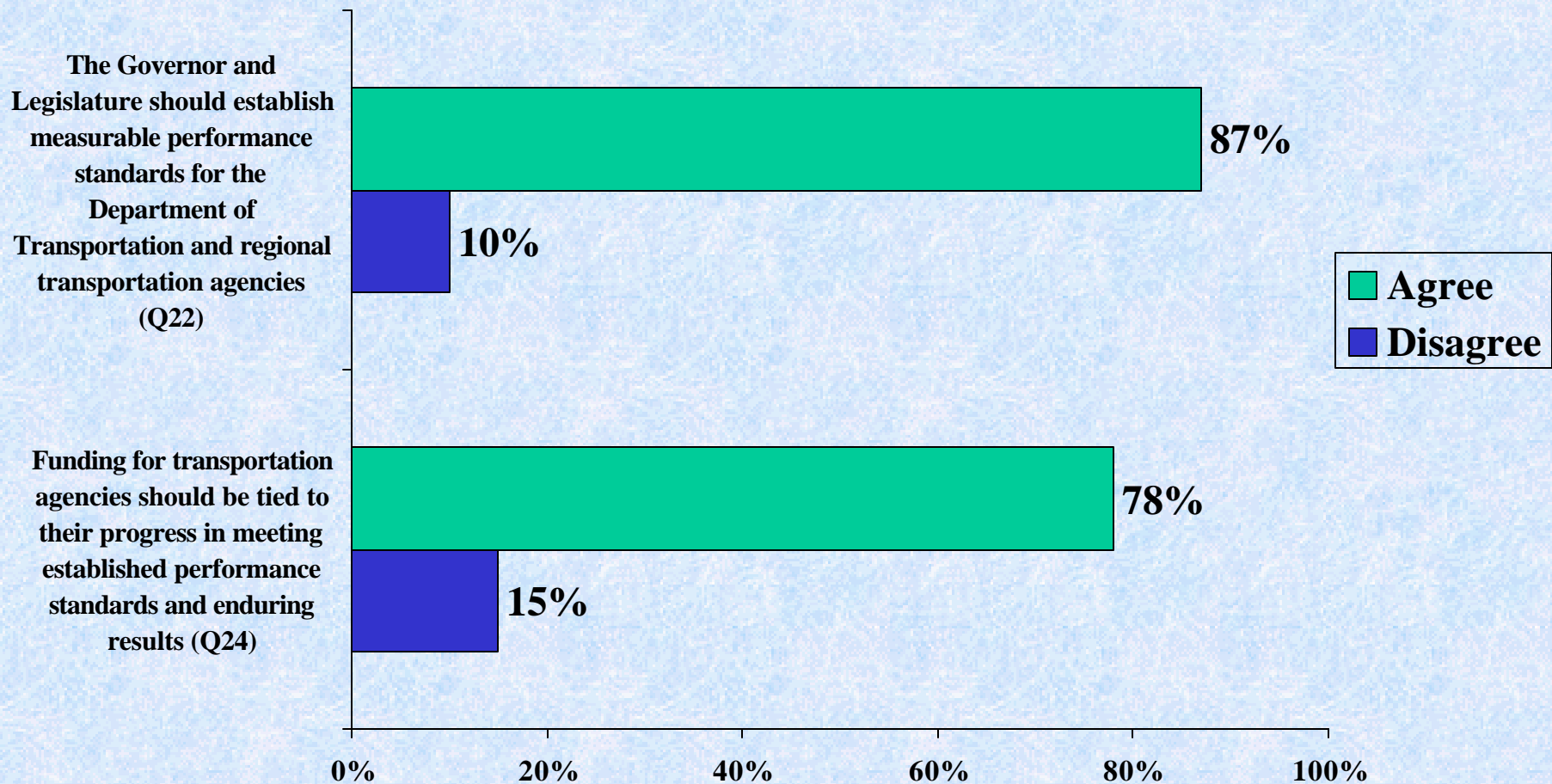
	<u>Seattle</u>	<u>Non-Seattle King</u>	<u>Kitsap/ Pierce/ Snohomish</u>	<u>Misc. West</u>	<u>East</u>
<i>Expand roads/Highways</i>	35%	68%	62%	59%	63%
<i>More bus routes/services</i>	69%	60%	53%	49%	44%
<i>Light rail/ Commuter trains</i>	63%	57%	58%	56%	36%
<i>Build new roads/Highways</i>	40%	62%	55%	45%	52%
<i>Fund ferries</i>	56%	55%	56%	45%	26%
<i>More HOV lanes</i>	45%	38%	41%	45%	22%

Voters are Receptive to Idea of Regional Transportation Solutions

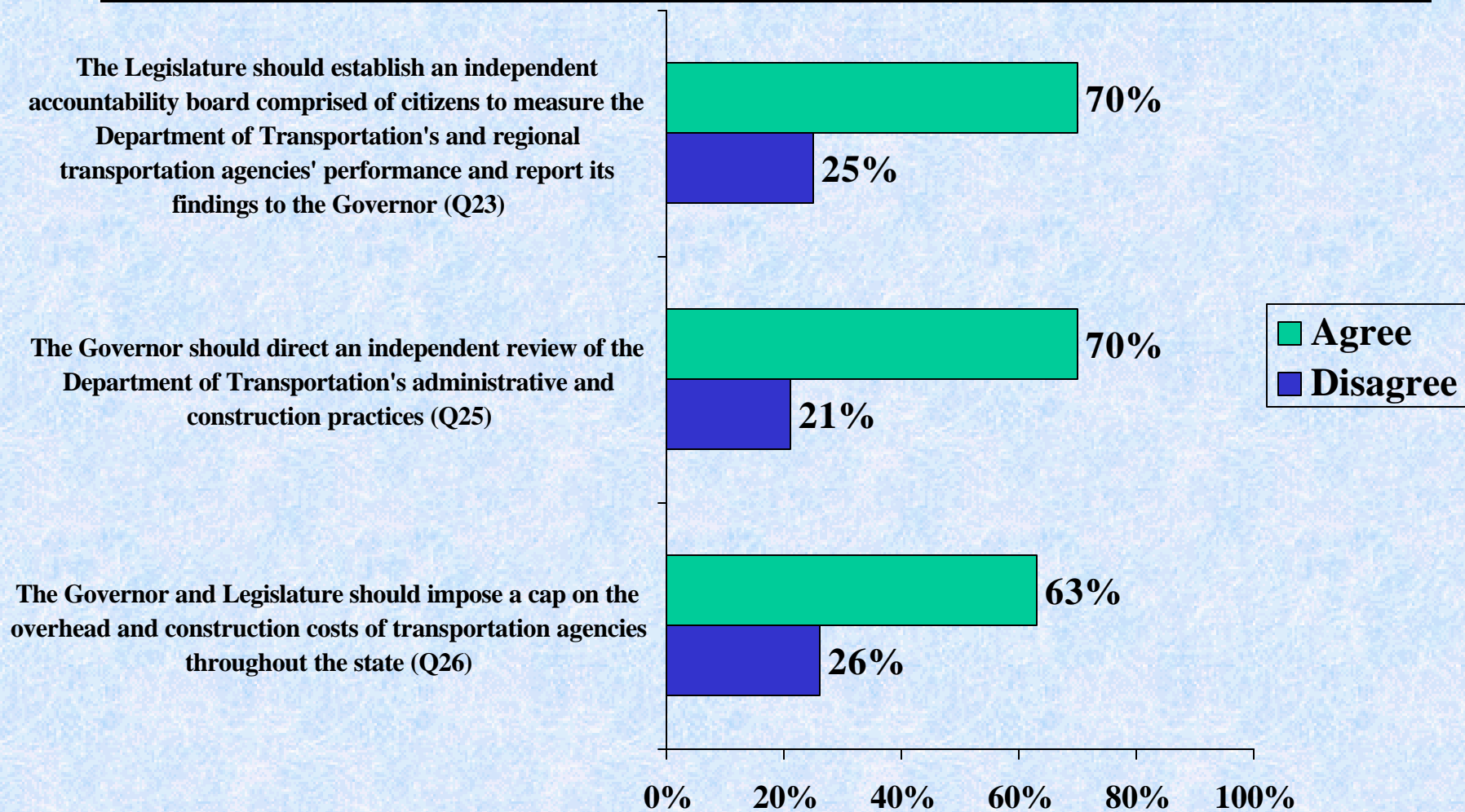


Performance Standards are Popular

"Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following."



Performance Measurement, Accountability, Spending Caps are Important

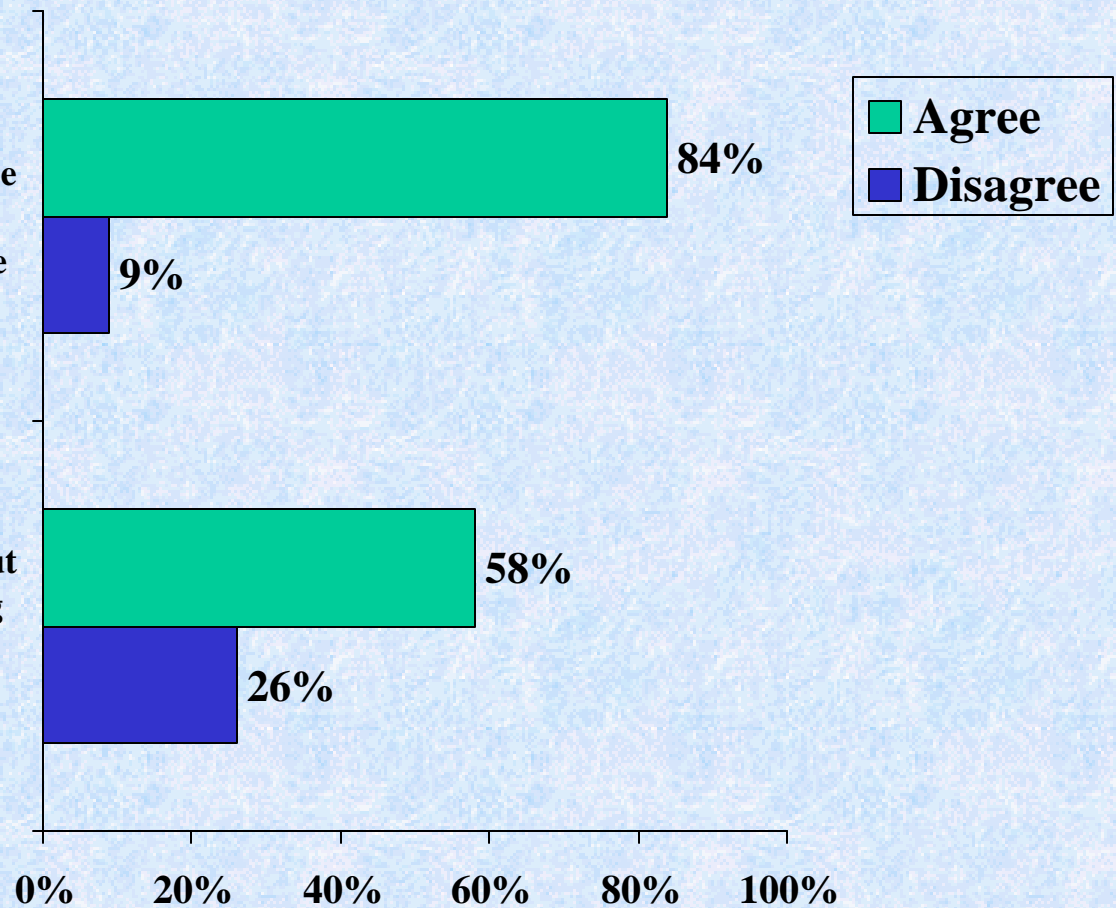


Streamline the Permit Process

"Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following."

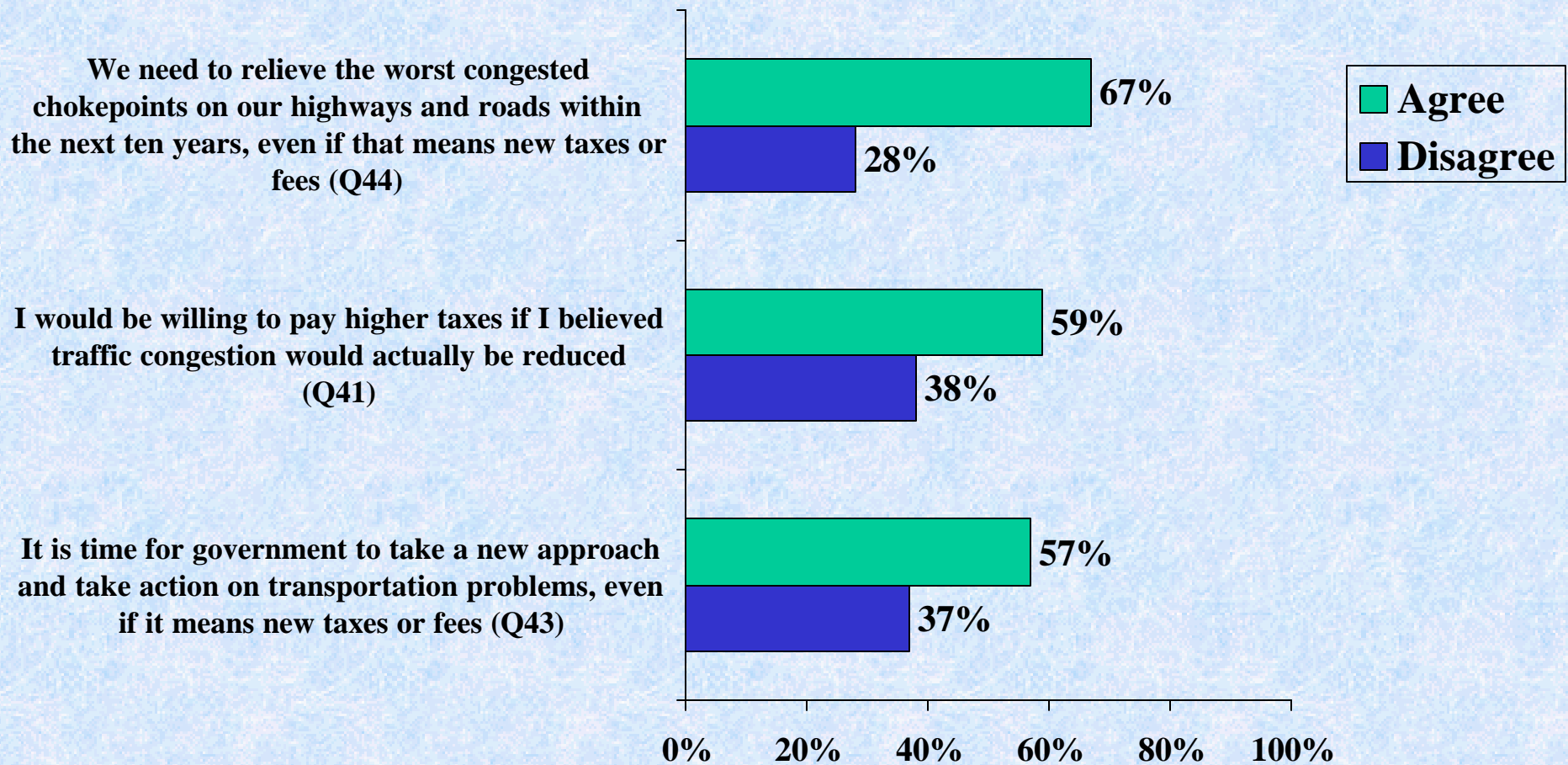
The Legislature should figure out a way to consolidate duplicate permitting processes at the city, county and state levels so transportation projects aren't tied up with red tape and can be built faster (Q46)

Transportation is in a state of crisis throughout Washington. The state should ease permitting requirements so congestion chokepoints are addressed faster (Q10)

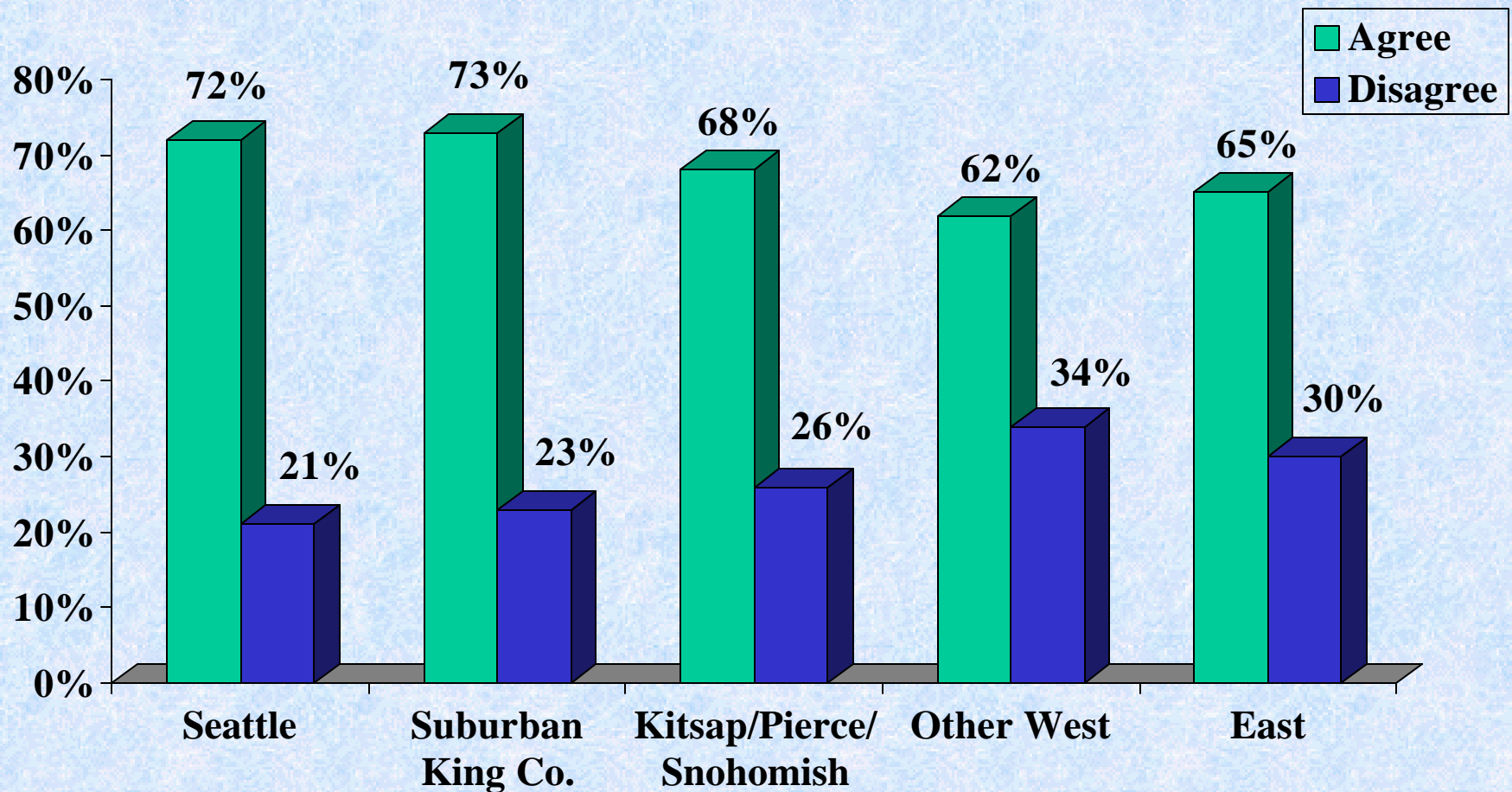


Voters Willing to Consider Tax Increases if . . .

"Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following."

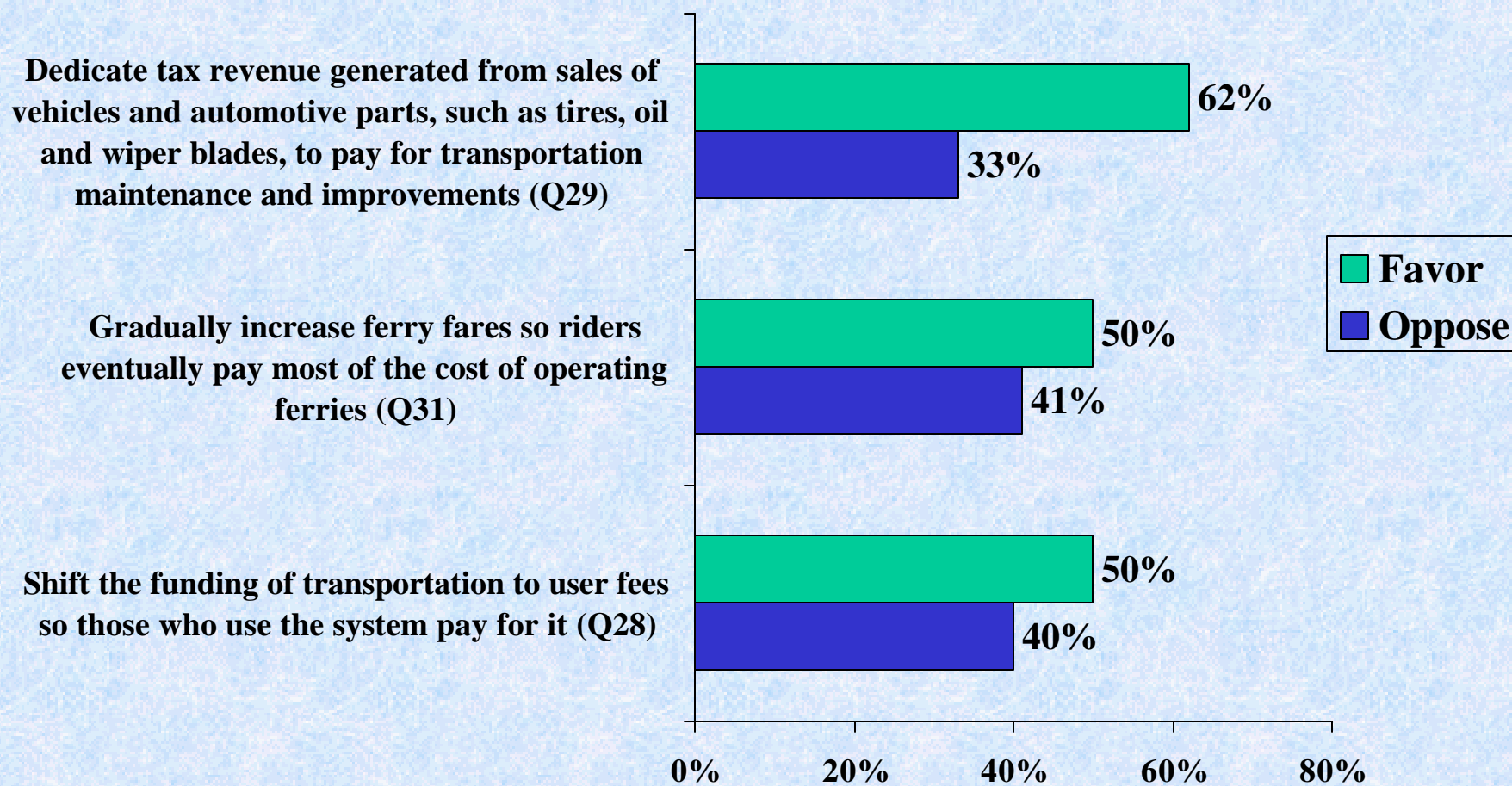


Voters Throughout the State Agree “We Need to Relieve (Congestion) . . . Even if That Means New Taxes . . .” (Q44)

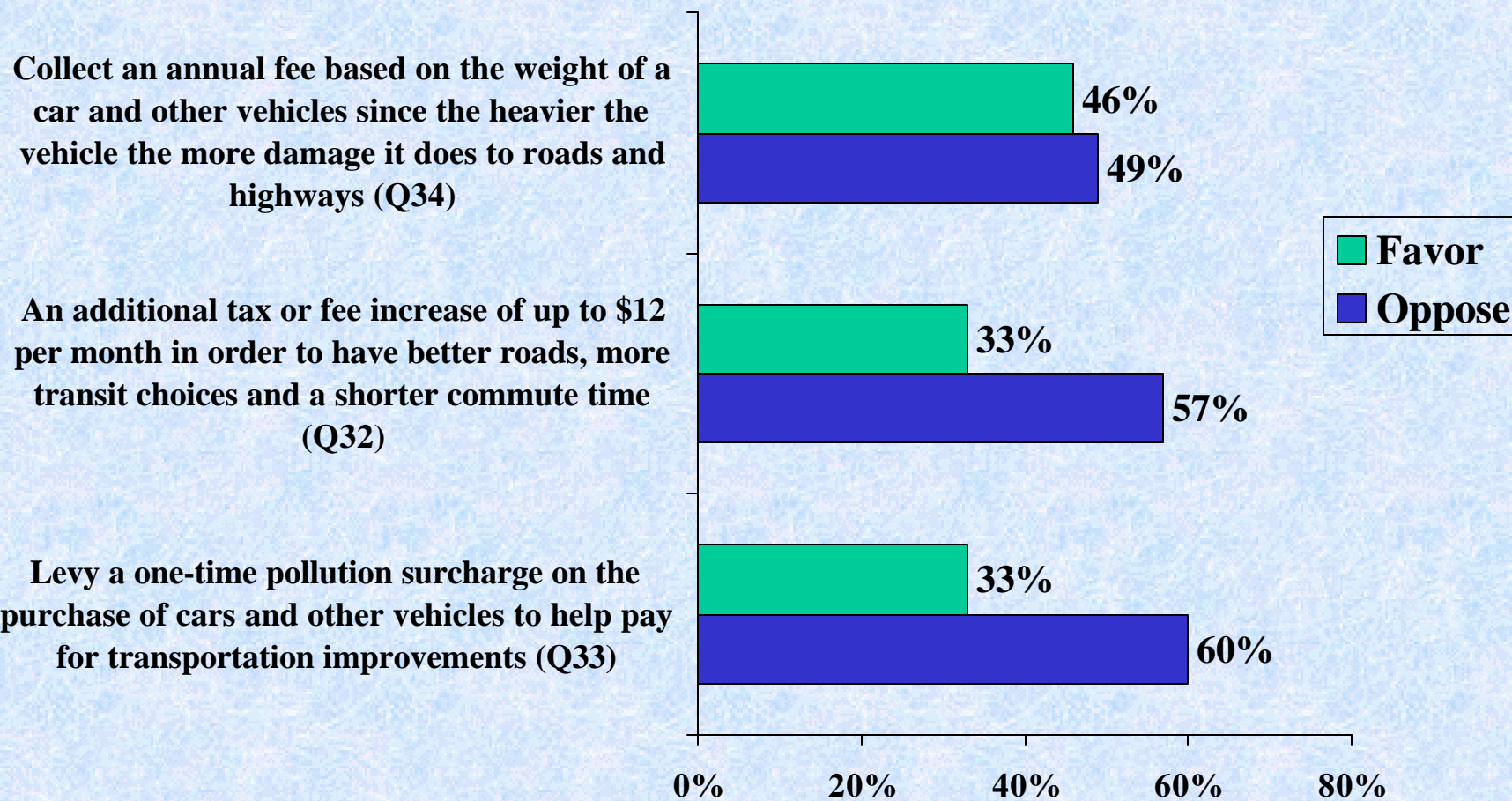


Potential Transportation Revenue Generation Ideas

"Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following proposals."



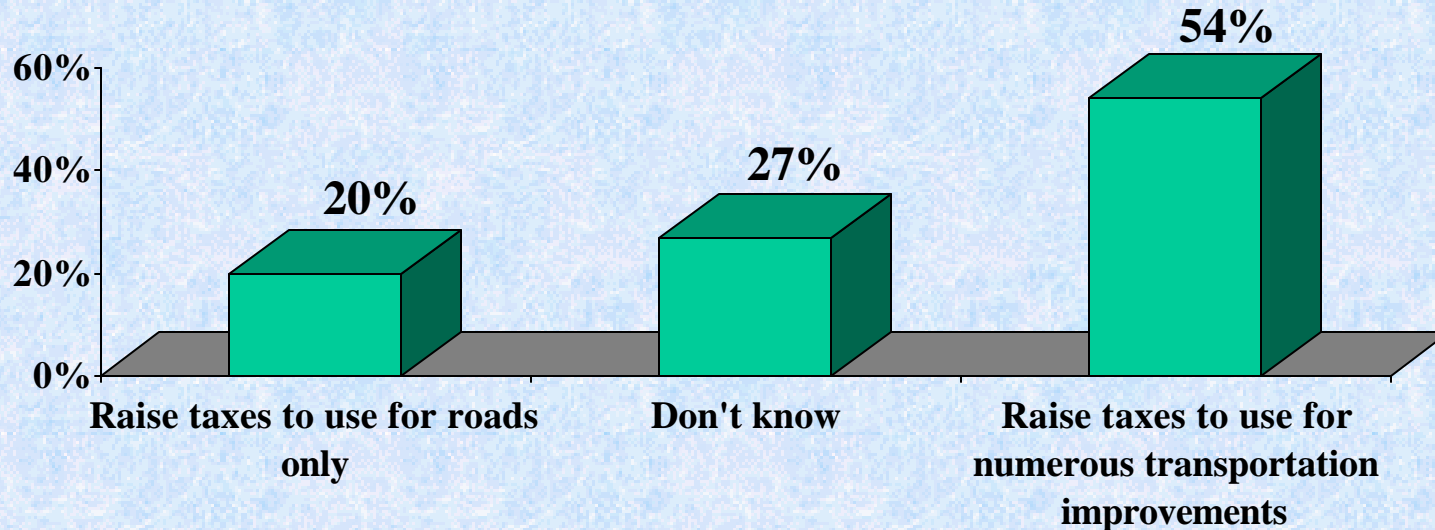
Unpopular Transportation Revenue Generation Ideas



Transportation Tax Revenues Should not be Limited to Roads & Highways

“Please tell me which of the following you think is the most fair way to fund transportation for Washington state.

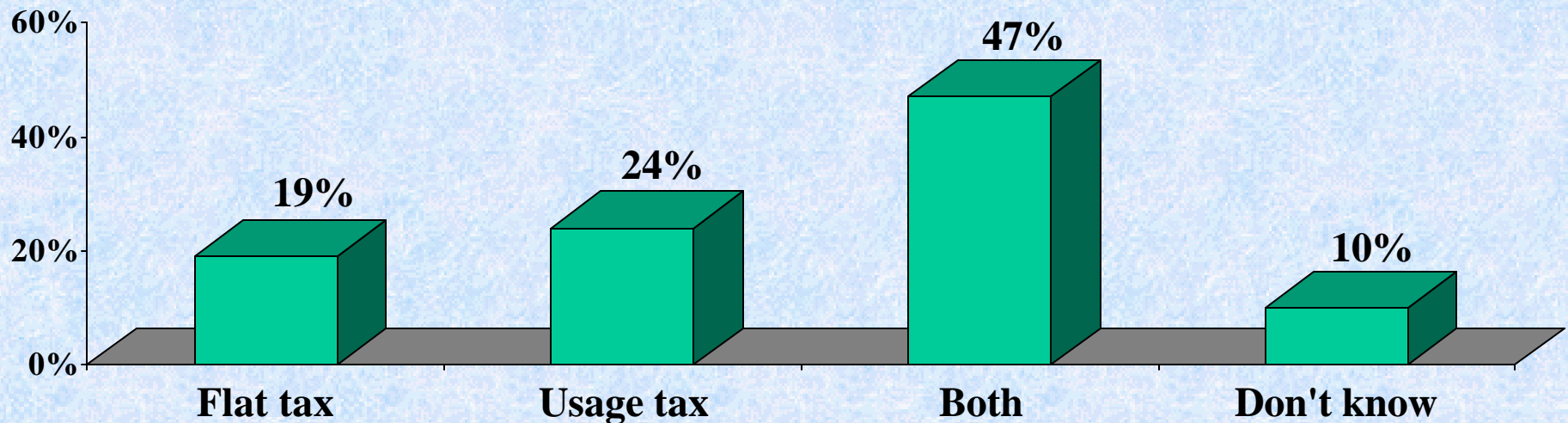
Raise taxes to be dedicated solely to maintaining and expanding highways OR raise taxes that could be used for all transportation improvements including highways, transit and trip reduction programs?”
(Q35)



Pay for Transportation with Flat and Usage Taxes

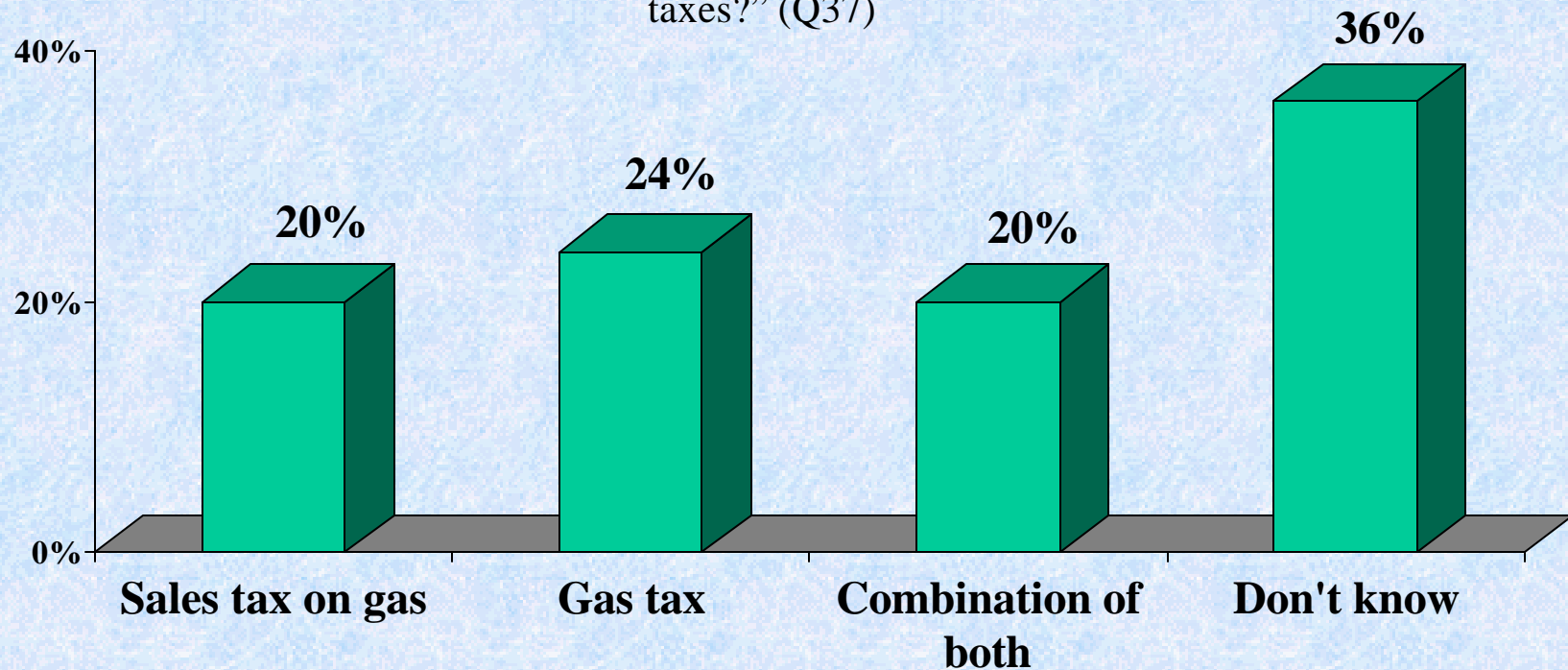
“Please tell me which of the following you think is the most fair way to fund transportation for Washington state.

A flat tax where all taxpayers pay the same amount to fund the state’s transportation system, OR a usage tax where those who drive more miles or cause more wear and tear pay more taxes, OR a combination of both?” (Q36)



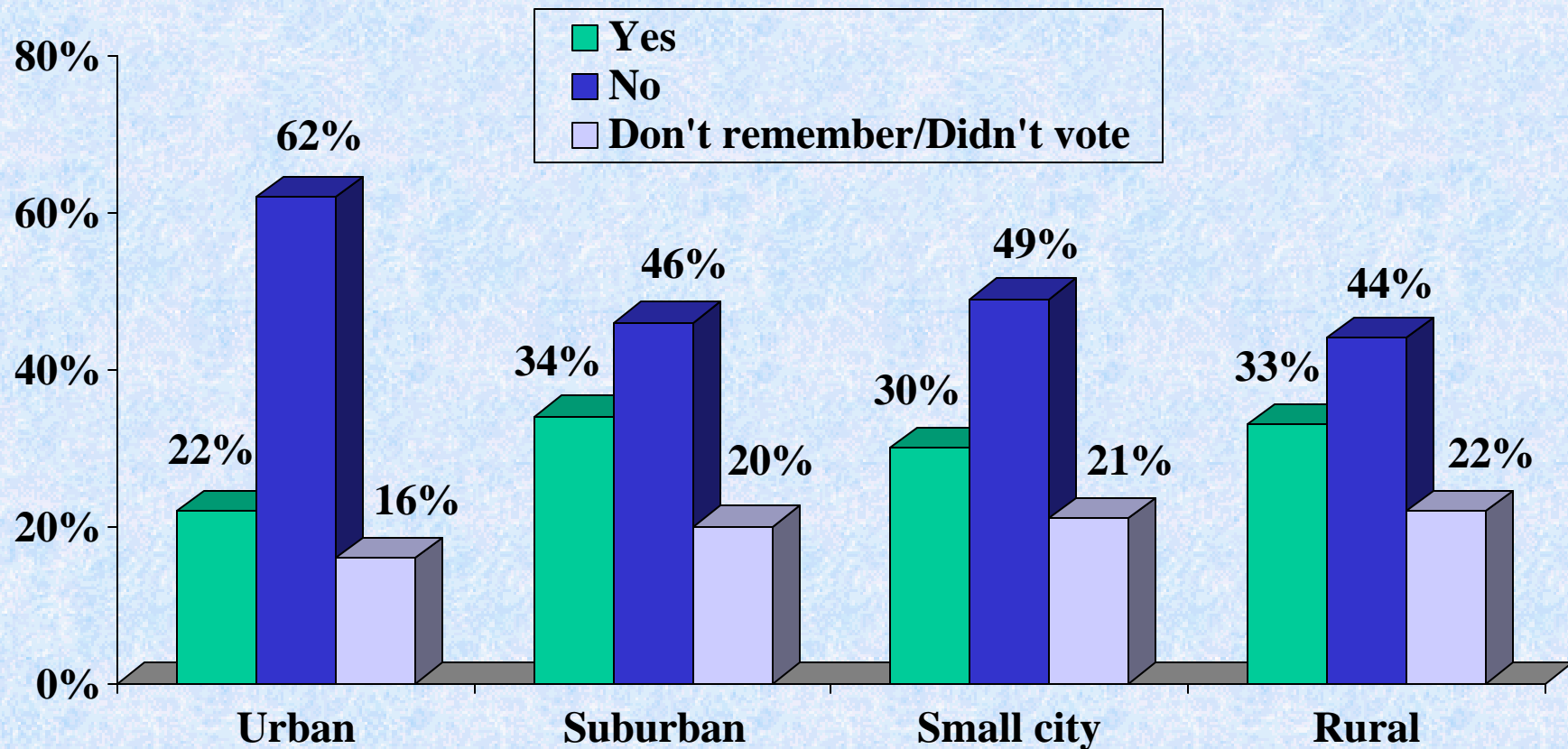
Gas Tax Increase Options

“The Legislature will be considering increasing the tax on gasoline. Would you be more supportive of placing a sales tax on gasoline that could be used for roads, transit and other transportation choices, OR raising the gas tax, which can only be used for highways, roads and bridges, OR increasing both taxes?” (Q37)



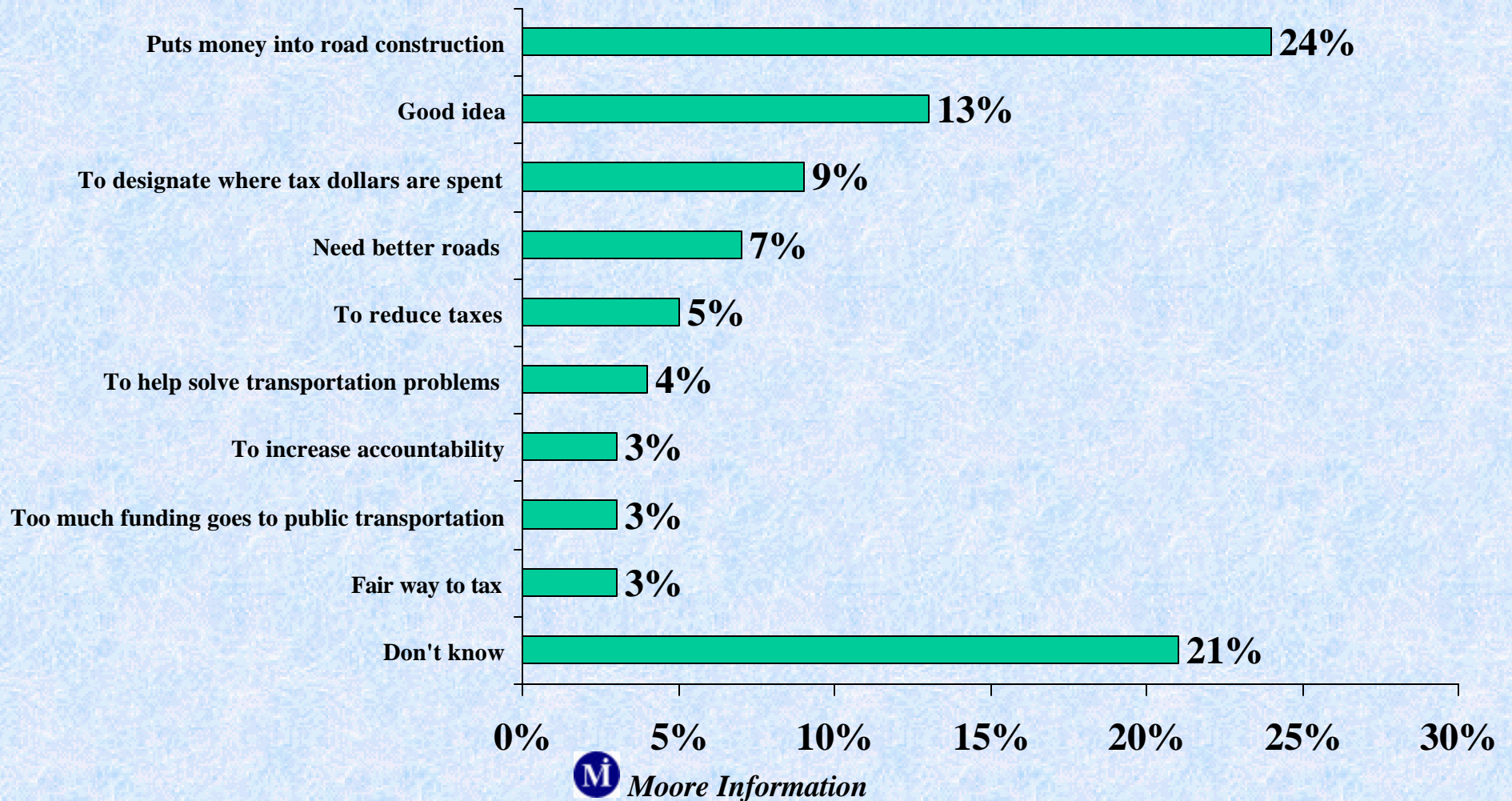
Urban Voters Were More Likely to Vote “No” on I-745

“Did you vote yes or no on I-745?” (Q38)



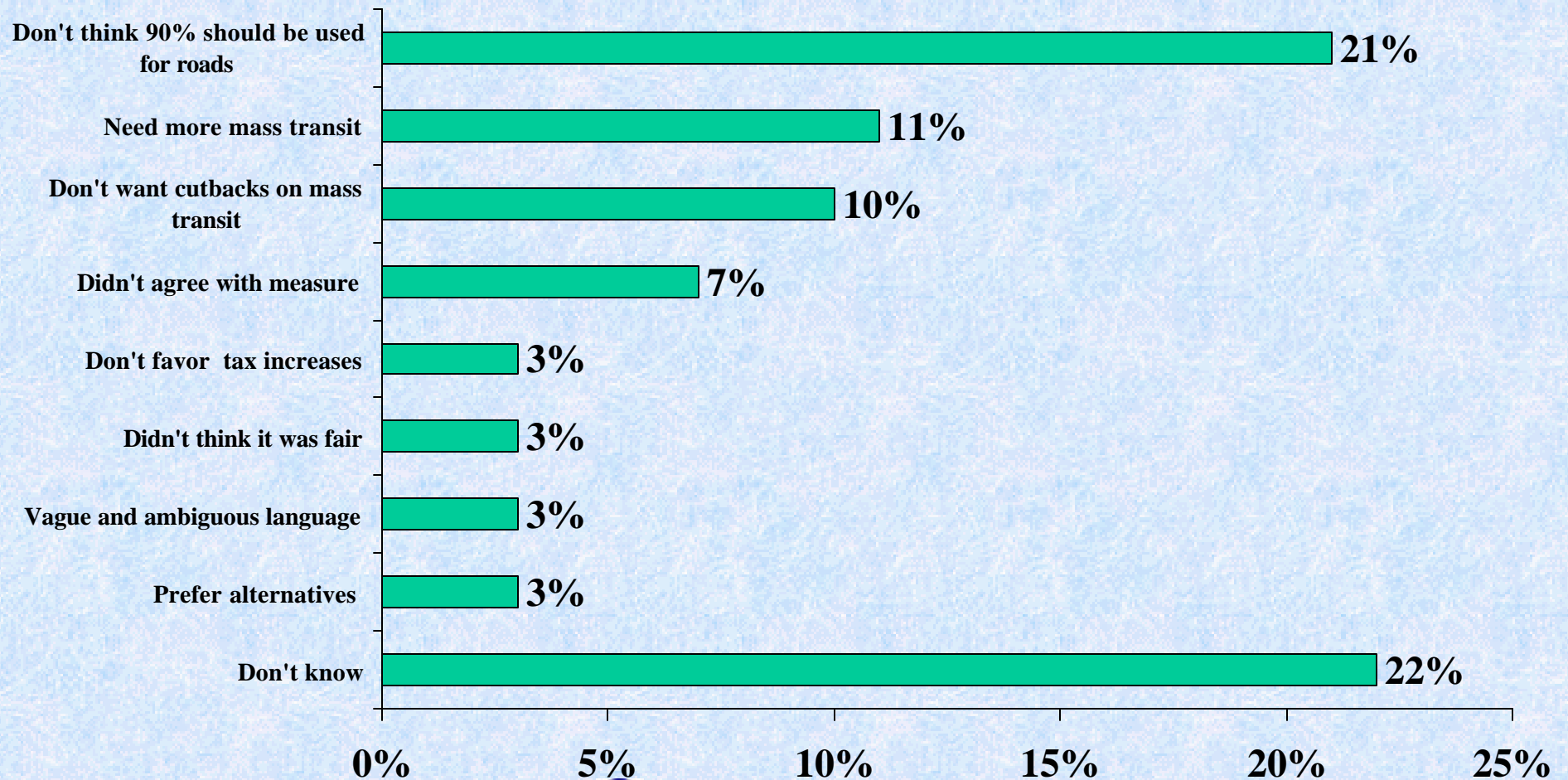
I-745: Supporters Want Better Roads

"Why did you vote yes on I-745?" (Q39, N=149)



I-745 Opposition Argues: “90% for Roads is Too Much; Save Funds for Mass Transit!”

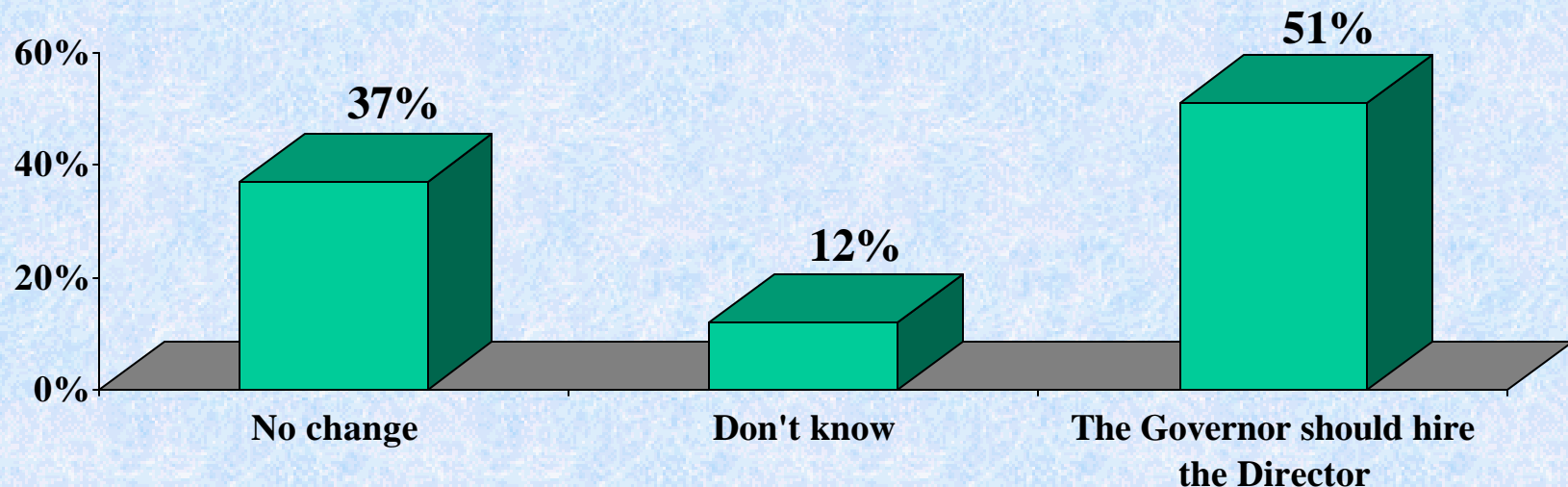
"Why did you vote no on I-745?" (Q40, N=250)



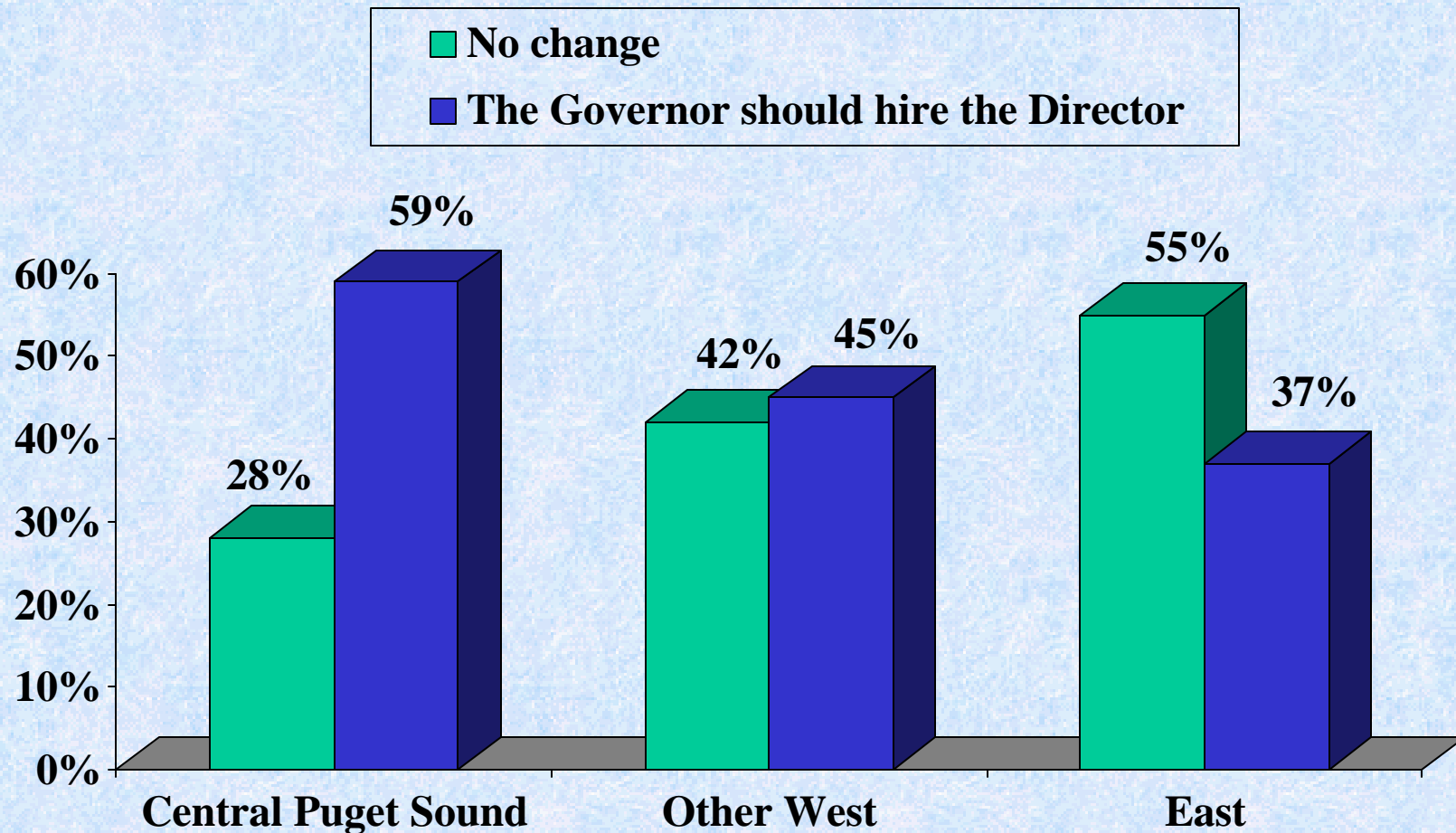
Who Should Hire the Director of Transportation?

“Which do you prefer,

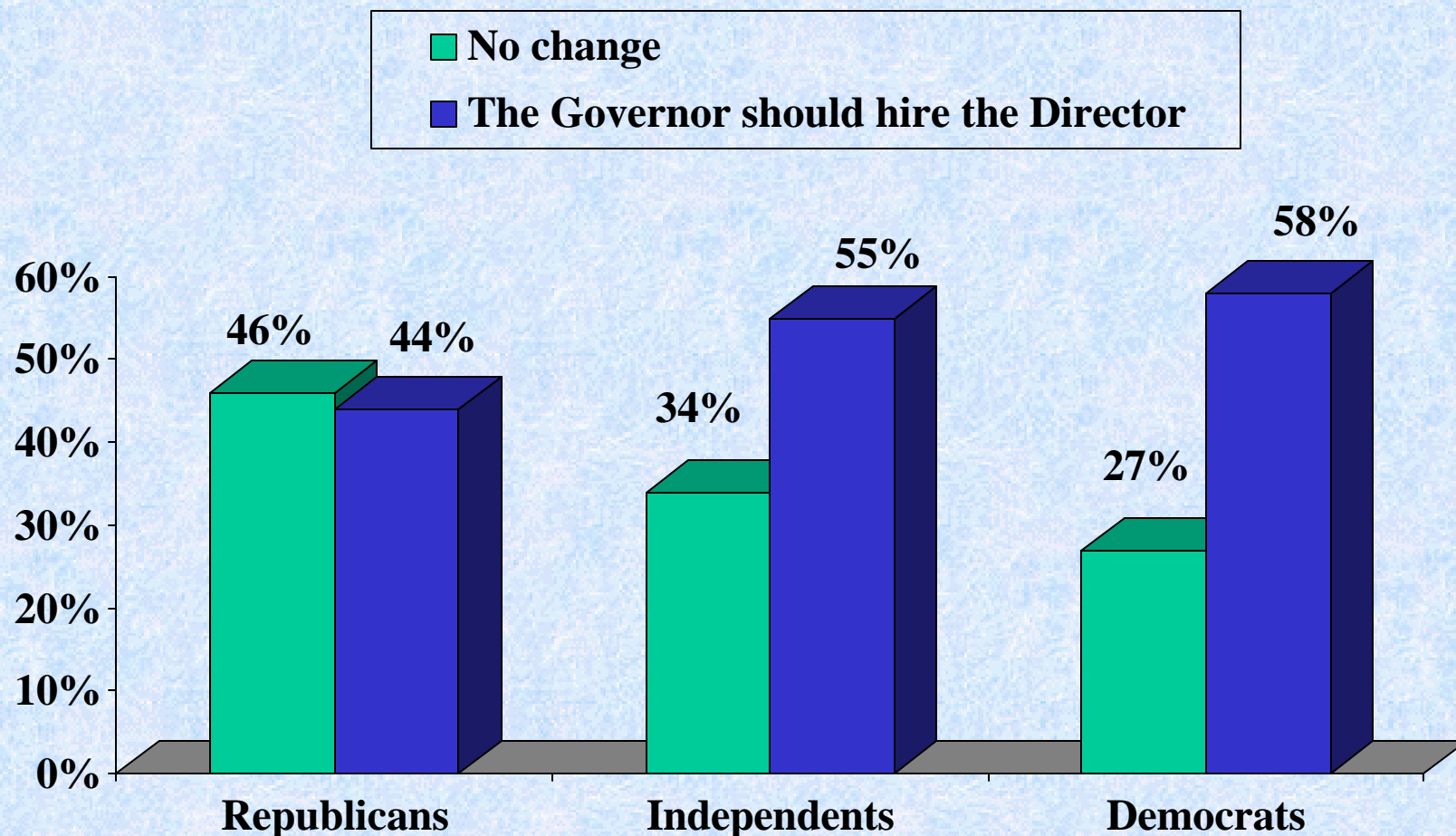
The seven-person Transportation Commission should continue as it has since 1977 and be responsible for hiring the Director of Transportation, OR the Department of Transportation should report directly to the Governor, and the Governor should be responsible for hiring the Director of Transportation and for the performance of that department.” (Q27)



Central Puget Sound Residents Say the Governor Should be Responsible; East Residents Prefer Status Quo; Other West Divided



Democrats and Independents Agree the Governor Should be in Charge; GOP's are Divided



Summary: Overview

- The Legislature needs to take action on transportation issues
- Basic maintenance and reduction of congestion “choke points” should have highest priorities.

Summary: Solutions

- Consider regional transportation solutions
- Employ accountability, performance standards and review in spending of transportation funds
- Streamline the permit process

Summary: More Solutions

- Dedicate tax revenues generated from sales of vehicles and automotive parts to pay for transportation maintenance and improvements
- Tie tax increases to congestion relief
- Everyone should pay for transportation improvements